**PERSONAL PROFILE: TIM CONRAD**

PERSONAL PROFILES are common for many different purposes, to name just a few: facebook, online websites, and personal statements when applying for scholarships, graduate school, medical school, and more. Some personal profiles are meant to be more friendly and informal; others much more businesslike and formal. Here's mine, following one of the most common patterns: Basic background information, Hobbies and interests, Brief life bio, Special people/mentors in my life, and Life goals/purpose:

Basic Background Information: My name is Tim Conrad. I teach English at Weber State University. I love Ogden, Utah, and live next to the River Park Trail on 16th Street which now almost completely circles the city so I can walk or bike without having to worry about traffic or busy streets. I like to bike to school every day. I’m on the university Personnel Relations Committee, which tries to collaboratively resolve disputes with faculty and staff, but the RB Committee has been my favorite of all for many years: the Round Ball basketball club, faculty and staff who play pick-up games on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. My first photo was taken by a neighbor who hits his shot at the same time (my defense is slowing down).

Hobbies & Interests: I enjoy a variety of activities: movies, biking, reading, writing. I’m very interested in applied linguistics, studying ways to learn English and other languages in both writing and speaking. I’m continuing to write a book on this topic but so often get delayed with other interests. My wife and I love to travel and in recent years we have been exploring the Sonoran Desert in southern Arizona

and northern Mexico. In fact, my wife recently taught English at Desert Shadows Middle School in Nogales, a friendly Mexican border town, 80 kilometers south of Tucson, the only U.S. highway marked in kilometers. In our spare time we have volunteered for Los Samaritanos and No More Deaths, biking back and forth across the border, patrolling the desert trails, supplying water drops for travelers who have lost their way, often having been abandoned, robbed or even abused by corrupt Coyotes who supposedly act as professional guides.

Brief Life Bio: I was born and grew up in Northern Oklahoma in Ponca City, an area where people belonging to the Ponca Nation reside. In fact, Oklahoma is the state where many Native Americans from the eastern part of the United States were forced to relocate after their homelands were taken away from them in the 1700s and 1800s. My parents worked at a Ponca secondary boarding school called Chilocco and when I was born their Ponca friends gave me the name of one of their Ponca chiefs, “Eeahskaw,” which means “Great White Rock (because I was a little white boy). So I have a lot to live up to! We also chased and dodged tornados. Maybe

you've seen that Oklahoma "Twister" movie. Later my parents transferred to a Navajo boarding school in Brigham City where I went to Box Elder High School, afterwards completed my undergraduate and Master’s Degree in the nearby city of Logan at Utah State University. I played baseball for the Box Elder Bees, the Brigham City Peaches, and in the LDS Church League in Logan: our team was called “the Baptist Ward” because we were the only other church team in the league. One of the funniest places that I ever lived and went to school (for my doctorate degree), was in the college town of Indiana, not far from the city of California, a few miles from a little town called Oklahoma, all in the state of Pennsylvania!

Special People/Mentors: There have been many people serving as very special models and mentors in my life. Definitely, my parents “walked in beauty,” as their beloved Navajo students believed was important in their culture and religion, a philosophy of life based on living in harmony with nature and one’s neighbors. My parents showed me how exciting it is to learn the languages and lifestyles of other groups of people. I studied Spanish with the dramatic, inspiring Bolivian, Dr. Jaime Cantaravici, at Utah State University, and often share his amazing poems, translated to English, with my classes at WSU.

Life Goals/Purpose: I've always wanted to make a difference in my personal and professional life. When I was finishing up my Master’s Degree, my wife and I went on a Fulbright cultural exchange to teach at a university in Bosnia in Eastern Europe. I’m excited about the world we live in. I think that we are living in a time of great possibilities and new discoveries about the nature of our world and the universe. Too often in the past the world has been plagued bysuperstition, ethnocentrism, competitive nationalism, and war. We’re beginning to understand ever more clearly our common humanity as citizens of an interdependent earth. In the United States, after many past mistakes, we’re beginning to live up to the words of our own founding document and work together to create a better government which recognizes that all are created equal, because all people “are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” Through my teaching and volunteer work, I want to follow in the footsteps of great leaders like King, Ghandi, and champions of public education, Horace Mann and Paulo Freire, to focus our efforts on the equality of all earth citizens through the promotion of international peace, education, health care, and overcoming of global poverty. It's true that there seem to be so many obstacles to making a difference about the big problems we face in the world. But what if I can do something? Find someone who also wants to try? Who knows? Like Dr. Jim Dolph, professor emeritus of WSU, would always like to say, "Maybe we'll fail but what if we don't!?"